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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02952 271917Z

72
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 NEA-10 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 /096 W
---------- 078075
R 271749Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2898
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PO, CH
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE-CHINESE RELATIONS

REF: LISBON 2693

SUMMARY: ALLEGED REFUSAL BY PEKING TO ATTEND UN CONFERENCE IN LISBON, COMMENTS BY SPOKESMAN OF PRO-CHINESE PORTUGUESE PARTY, AND RECENT STATEMENTS BY GOP GOVERNOR OF MACAU HAVE RAISED ANEW QUESTION OF FUTURE GOP-PRC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. LISBON PAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS REFUSED TO ATTEND THE JUNE 12-19 UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE
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OF 24 DECOLONIZATION MEETING TO BE HELD IN LISBON. PRESS REPORTED

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CHINESE EXCUSE THAT PEKING HAS NO EMBASSY IN LISBON, BUT NOTED THAT PRC HAS NO EMBASSY IN PANAMA CITY, YET PRC PARTICIPATED IN 1973 SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA. NEWSPAPERS SPECULATED PRC UNHAPPY WITH BOTH PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOP, AND FURTHER NOTED THAT PORTUGUESE OVERTURES TO PEKING HAVE BEEN REJECTED UNLIKE CORDIALITY ACCORDED PORTUGUESE BY SOVIETS.

2. THREE-MAN DELEGATION OF "MARXIST-LENINIST PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP-ML) "RETURNED TO LISBON MAY 15 AFTER MONTH AND HALF VISIT TO CHINA. DELEGATION OF EDUINO VILAR, CARLOS GUINOT, AND ANA FARIA WAS INVITED BY CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND REPORTEDLY HELD TALKS WITH VICE-PRIME MINISTER TSI-TEM KUEI AND TWO OTHER CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS. IN PRESS CONFERENCE, VILAR POINTED TO PEKING'S NON-RECEPTIVITY TO GOP EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND SAID THAT TIME FOR LUSO-CHINESE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS "DEPENDS UPON THE ATTITUDE OF THE PORTUGUESE LEADERS REGARDING THE SUPERPOWERS BOTH IN WORDS AND DEED." VILAR CITED THE FIGHT AGAINST "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM" AS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS RESPECT. VILAR ADDED THAT IN PCP (M-1)'S VIEW MOST PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICERS DO NOT HAVE A DEFINED POLITICAL VIEW AND CUNHAL'S PCP IS THE BEST ORGANIZED GROUP IN THE COUNTRY. THEREFORE, THE POLITICAL SITUATION PERMITS EASY MANEUVERING WITHIN, AND UNDUE INFLUENCE OVER, GOP BY PCP. VILAR SKIRTED QUESTION IF DELEGATION CARRIED MESSAGE TO PEKING FROM FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES.

3. GOP GOVERNER OF MACAU, GARCIA LEANDRO COMMENTED ON GOP-CHINESE RELATIONS ON MAY 25 AFTER ENDING LISBON CONSULTATION (SEE REFTEL) AND PRIOR TO RETURN TO MACAU. LEANDRO SAID HIS IMPRESSIONS OF PEKING'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GOP WERE THE SAME AS VILAR'S AND ADDED THAT "AT THIS TIME, CHINA APPROACHES THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION WITH CAUTION FOR FEAR THAT PORTUGAL WILL FALL INTO MOSCOW'S ORBIT." LEANDRO SAID CHINA SUPPORTS NATO, THE EEC, AND THIRD WORLD BUT HAS PROBLEMS WITH THE USSR. LEANDRO REASONED IT IS NATURAL FOR PEKING TO HOLD OFF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL BECAUSE RELATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED IF LISBON FELL UNDER MOSCOW'S INFLUENCE.

4. COMMENT: POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN LISBON HAD PREVIOUSLY THEORIZED THAT CHINA WOULD WAIT FOR COMPLETE AFRICAN DECOLONIZ-
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ATION BEFORE ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH LISBON. THESIS, PROBABLY CORRECT, APPEARS INCOMPLETE. DIRECT GOP ROLE IN AFRICA TO END IN NOVEMBER WITH ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. VILAR'S COMMENTS AS WELL AS THOSE OF LEANDRO NOTE CHINESE PREOCCUPATION WITH PRO-SOVIET PCP INFLUENCE IN PORTUGAL. IF REPORT THAT PRC WILL NOT ATTEND LISBON CONFERENCE IS TRUE, GESTURE WILL BE TAKEN AS HARD SNUB BY GOP ANXIOUS FOR CHINA TIE. PEKING APPARENTLY IN NO RUSH TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GOP UNTIL MUDDY WATERS OF

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SOVIET-PORTUGUESE, AND IMPLICITLY PORTUGUESE-NATO, RELATIONS
BECOME CLEAR.
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